Eastern Region. During 1999-2000, the Central Government has given additional grant of Rs. 8.00 crore to IGNOU for establishment of more Regional and Study Centres in the North-Eastern Region.

**Progress Rate of Literacy**

4347. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to UNDP (1999) estimates, at the current rate progress achieved in literacy, the BIMARU States will take another 100 years to achieve universal literacy for their female population;

(b) if so, in what manner Government plan to usher in universal literacy within 25 years in these States;

(c) in what manner Government plan for making education a fundamental right of the citizens would help in making our countrymen universally literate; and

(d) what is the annual external aid Agencies contribution to primary education in the year 1999-2000; 2000-2001 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No Sir. According to Human Development Report 1999—UNDP the female literacy rate for India during 1997 is 39.4%. The female literacy rate for BIMARU States has not been given in the report. However, according to National Sample Survay Organisation (NSSO) Report ending 1997 female literacy within the country is 50%. The literacy rate of the BIMARU States as per 1991 Census and according to the NSSO Survey report ending 1997 is as under:—

| Name of State | Literacy Rate 1991 | Literacy Rate 1997 |
|---|---|---|
| Bihar | 22.9 | 34 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 28.8 | 41 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 32.7 | 43 |
| Rajasthan | 20.4 | 35 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 25.3 | 41 |

(b) Details of the steps taken are :—

— The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy and taking the literacy percentage of the country to the threshold, sustainable level of 75% by the year 2005.

— Total literacy campaigns have covered approximately 80 million adults in 516 districts.

— Focus on districts with low literacy and greater involvement of Panchyati Raj institutions.

— The schemes of Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education and Mid-Day-Meal are being implemented.

— Opening of nearly 22,000 Education Guarantee Centres in Madhya Pradesh nearly 12,000 Rajiv Gandhi Swarna Jayanti Pathshalas in Rajasthan, filling up of teacher vacancies in large number of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.

— A new Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been prepared as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the Mission Mode.

— Continuous monitoring and review of programmes.

— Universalisation of Elementary Education through Mission Mode and through complementarity of actions between the governmental and non-governmental sectors at various levels.

(c) Article 45 of the Constitution of India provides for free and compulsory education for all, up to the age of 14 years. A revised Constitution amendment Bill to make elementary education a fundamental right is under consideration of the Group of Ministers.

(d) The disbursement received from various external agencies for primary education programmes during 1999-2000 and for 2000-2001 is given below :

(Rupees in crores)

| Disbursement during 1999-2000 | Targetted disbursement during 2000-2001 |
|---|---|
| 817.03 | 1066.22 |